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Letter dated 7 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter addressed to you by the President of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, dated 3 July 2008, regarding the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia and the issue of Djibouti (see annex).

I would be most grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I kindly request you to circulate this letter, which my Government is also submitting for the record, to all members of the Security Council.

For the past six years since the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission rendered its final and binding award in accordance with the provisions of the Algiers Agreement, the Security Council has continued to shirk its responsibilities. This regrettable position occurred as a result of incessant pressure and meddling by the United States Administration. This has in turn led to an accumulation and aggravation of a dangerous situation that is posing a grave threat to regional peace and stability.

The failure of the Security Council to heed Eritrea's continuous appeals and to take appropriate action against the Addis Ababa regime for its occupation, with the tacit support of its backers, of our sovereign territories in violation of the peace agreement, the rule of law and established norms of international behaviour has indeed encouraged the latter to indulge in graver acts. Thus, in mid-April this year, the Addis Ababa regime invaded Mount Musa Ali, which lies at the confluence of the borders of the three countries, thereby occupying sovereign Eritrean and Djiboutian lands.

The Security Council has not to date taken any remedial action against Ethiopia's flagrant act of aggression.

On the contrary, the Security Council chose to issue, again under the prodding of the United States, an unwarranted presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/20) against Eritrea on the basis of a bogus and much dramatized accusation that we are told was lodged by the Government of Djibouti. This whole affair was in fact deliberately concocted to cover up Ethiopia's acts of aggression and repeated violations and deflect public attention.

Eritrea may not be surprised but it is extremely saddened by this patently unjustifiable presidential statement of 12 June 2008.

Eritrea's decision to persist in its legal approach to secure respect of its sovereignty and territorial integrity as a whole and not single out, or treat as a special case, Ethiopia's recent occupation of Musa Ali should have been appreciated indeed. While this remains our basic approach, Ethiopia's new and provocative flouting of international law nonetheless constitutes another grim reminder to the Security Council to shoulder its legal responsibilities.

In conclusion, I hope that our repeated calls, for the sake of legality and justice, to the Security Council, which remains unfortunately dominated by a power hostile to Eritrea, will not be interpreted as futile or naive.

(*Signed*) Isaias **Afwerki**